

Nations. May I not also venture to add that this distinction may be regarded as a recognition of the wholehearted support and loyal adherence given by Travancore to the great cause for which the King Emperor stands. Striking a personal note I feel particularly proud that I share this title with one of my idols in public life, Sir K. Seshadri Aiyar, to whom and whose inspiration I have a great deal in connection with the formulation and carrying out of administrative policies. I do not trust myself to say much more on this occasion. I thank my honourable colleagues most fervently and from the bottom of my heart. They have said many kind things. They have meant many more kind things. I know that the members of this honourable House have always been generous to me, and I know, put up with much, that members of this honourable House rightly regard honour and prestige of this kind as equivalent to the honour and prestige of the Legislature and the country. I thank my colleagues again for what they have said and for what they have implied in what they have said.

The motion was put to vote and declared carried *nem con.*

The House rose for lunch at 1-20 P. M. and re-assembled at 2-20 P. M. with the Dewan-President in the chair.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Before the regular business of the House commences I am very glad to be able to announce that a large number of the orders for coir goods which were placed before the Indian Stores Department by the Travancore Mats and Mattings Association has been accepted with the result that a large percentage of the coir goods will be at their disposal and could be undertaken by Travancore. I have just received the intimation.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

CENSUS.

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 17,900 under XXX (H)—Census. When the Budget was framed for Census expenditure at the beginning of this year, we asked for Rs. 18,000 for remuneration to Enumerators and Supervisors. At the time it was not known what will be the position taken by Government of India in the matter of Census this year. The demand under the different heads of the budget was therefore based on the actual amount of expenditure for the last Census. In 1931, the enumeration proceeded by assigning to each enumerator a certain number of blocks which were formed by an arbitrary grouping of 30 houses in the rural areas and 50 houses in the urban areas. This time Census operations proceed on a different basis, the geographical unit having been accepted as the basis for the formation of blocks, by the Census Commissioner for India. The geographical unit for Travancore has been fixed as a *kara*. This has necessitated the appointment of a large number of Enumerators and Supervisors. 3588 Enumerators and 793 Supervisors were appointed for the last Census. There has been an excess of 30% in the number of houses this time over the number of houses in 1931. Even if the same system had been followed this time also, we

[Mr. A. N. Tampi]

would have had to increase the number of enumerators and supervisors by 30%. The adoption of the geographical unit as the basis for the formation of blocks has increased the number of Enumerators and Supervisors to 4651 and 948 respectively. This represents an excess of 697 Enumerators and 200 Supervisors. It may seem that this number is very much in excess of the number last time. But against this I have to say that last time we had to incur additional expenditure for tabulation charges for getting information about the various headings *karawar*. Information for a *kara* had to be pieced together from the small blocks of 30 and 50 houses. The present system has enabled us to effect a great saving in that direction. We have tried our very best to reduce the number of Enumerators and Supervisors to the absolute minimum. I may inform the House that these Enumerators have a very difficult task to perform. This year's enumeration cards call for very much more information than those of previous Censuses. The Enumerators have to work very hard as they have to do this work without prejudice to their normal duties. They get time to attend to this work only in the afternoon and rarely in the forenoon. I have personally seen them at work. It is very strenuous indeed! There is therefore no possibility of adequately remunerating them. What is proposed is to give them only their out-of-pocket expenses. During the previous Census also, the Enumerators and Supervisors were given a similar allowance for the preliminary enumeration. This year this allowance is proposed to be given for both the preliminary as well as the final enumeration. The total amount that may be required under this item is Rs. 29,900 of which a sum of Rs. 18,000 has already been included in the Budget for the year. This demand includes only the excess amount of Rs. 11,900 which is required over the sanctioned allotment.

The second item is for giving an allowance to the investigators who are to do the economic survey. The Economic Census has been before the public eye for a long time. Early, last year, the Economic Development Board recommended that an intensive Economic Survey should be conducted. The cost they proposed was rather excessive. Government therefore suggested that the survey might be conducted along with the Census. At the beginning of the Census operations, it was thought that the survey may be conducted on a Census basis and the non-official Co-operators of the State were suggested as the agency for conducting the survey. It was also proposed to give them an allowance of Rs. 10,000 for collecting statistics from the 10 lakhs and odd houses in the State. But when the actual work was taken up it was found that the results were discouraging. When we requested the non-official Co-operators to offer their services, many were unwilling to give it, some gave it, under compulsion from the Co-operative Inspectors. I realised from the nature of the people who were expected to do the work that the personnel was not competent for undertaking this very important and strenuous work. Most of them had no knowledge of economics and I felt that it was not possible to get the work done by them. I therefore suggested that instead of conducting the survey on a Census basis, the same and probably more reliable results

could be achieved if the same is conducted on a stratified representative sampling basis. There is the possibility of a large percentage of error creeping in the Census method and it would not have been possible to detect them at the source. Take for example the consumption of rice. If you collect statistics regarding this on a house to house basis, you will see that a large number of families may not be able to give actual quantity consumed as they do not keep correct accounts of domestic expenditure. Such a data will be absolutely useless, unreliable and often false. Sampling method has obvious advantages over this. It saves time. It saves labour and in addition it makes possible the employment of skilled investigators. More than all, the percentage of error is to a large extent minimised on account of the smaller number of sources from which the data has to be collected. For the application of this method, 55 typical centres as falling within the three natural divisions of the lowland, midland and highland regions have been selected and from each taluk representative karas or pakuthies approximating to 10 per cent. of the occupied houses in the kara or pakuthy have been taken. It is proposed to give each investigator 600 houses. He has to finish his work in two months, doing ten houses a day. It is proposed to appoint graduates of the locality who have taken up Economics or Statistics as their special subject as investigators. Whenever it is not possible to get the services of graduates we may appoint under-graduates of proved ability and efficiency. The work may require the services of nearly 200 investigators to whom a monthly allowance of Rs. 15 and Rs. 20 is proposed to be paid. This would require Rs. 6,000.

With these preliminary remarks, Sir, I move that this amount of Rs. 17,900, -Rs. 11,900 under the head Remuneration to Enumerators and Supervisors and Rs. 6,000 under a new head, Allowance to Investigators— be granted.

The motion was put to vote and declared carried.

Development Department.

DR. S. K. PILLAI (*Technical Assistant in charge of the Development Department*): Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 3,870 for the development Department under VI—E, Forests. This sum is made up of three items.

One item is for a sum of Rs. 1,500. The Development department has purchased machine for the manufacture of wood wool. In order to work it, certain adjustments and a baling press were necessary, but as the freight rate to Bombay market was very high, making it impossible to compete in the market, the working of the machine was not contemplated till reduced rates were obtained. No provision was therefore, made in the Budget for making the necessary accessories. Negotiations were started with the S. I. R. Company to get the rate reduced. In the mean while, enquiries regarding the supply of wood wool were received. The S. I. R. gave hopes of reasonable reduction. Hence work on the accessories was undertaken. For meeting the expenditure a sum of Rs. 1,500 is required.

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[Dr. S. K. Pillai,]

The next item is for Rs. 1,870 for installing fire hydrants in the premises of the Development Office. This is very necessary to protect the buildings from fire.

The third item is for a sum of Rs. 500 spent in reclaiming a hydraulic hot press despatched in a German steamer from Germany. Before the steamer reached India, war was declared and the steamer took shelter at Padang, a neutral port. Government engaged Messrs. Cox & Kings Ltd., Bombay for the reclamation of the cargo. For re-claiming, for re-shipping and other charges, a sum of Rs. 500 was spent temporarily from other heads of the sanctioned budget. This expenditure has now to be made good. No provision was made in the budget as it was not known when the cargo would be released.

Thus a total sum of Rs. 3,870 is required for the Development department. I request the House to sanction the grant.

The motion was carried and the grant was made.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

MR. S. SUNDARARAJAN: Sir, I beg to move that the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the audit and appropriation of the accounts of 1115 M. E., be taken up for consideration.

The following motion of which notice had been given, was not moved:

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: This Assembly recommends to Government that special steps may be taken for securing a close approximation of the expenditure to the final grant for P. W. Works.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

"This Assembly recommends to Government that special steps may be taken for avoiding rush of expenditure in P. W. Works during the fourth quarter of a year."

The P. W. D. is one of the largest of the spending departments. The expenditure of the year should be spread over the whole year. From the reports for 1113, 1114 and 1115 we find that there is a rush of expenditure and heavy payments in the month of Karkadagam every year. Government passed orders that a certain proportion must be spent every quarter; 15 per cent in the first quarter, 25 per cent in the second quarter and 35 per cent in the third quarter. This proportion is followed in Mysore also. It is regrettable to note that this order is not being adhered to.

From page 5 of the report we find that there is a rush of expenditure in the fourth quarter. Just to avoid this rush of expenditure I am making this motion. If there is a rush of expenditure there is a chance for the Division Officers to swindle money from the contractor. I know as a matter of fact that many Division Officers do swindle money. I am not required to give their names though I can do so.

PRESIDENT: Order, Order: I must deprecate that attitude on the part of my honourable friend and others. I don't know if honourable members have any duty more paramount than that of exposing